IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Wolfgang BECKER, Markus BECK, Klaus GOTH, Mike PAELMER, Claus-Dieter REINIGER and Daniel ZAUNER

Appln. No.:

Filed: March 1, 2004

For: PROCESS FOR LASER BEAM WELDING WITH REDUCED FORMATION OF END CRATERS

Attorney Docket No.: 3926.071

Customer Number: 00004288

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attn: Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.